



For Immediate Release:
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Webb State Park in Weymouth to Temporarily Close

Environmental Remediation Project Provides Permanent Remedy with No Cost to Commonwealth

Weymouth, Massachusetts --- The Department of Conservation and Recreation announced today the temporary closing of William Webb Memorial State Park in Weymouth to complete environmental remediation (cleanup) associated with a former fertilizer manufacturing facility that once operated on Weymouth Neck. It is anticipated the 36-acre park, located on Weymouth Neck, will be closed from January 3 through June 2005.

The remediation program, which will excavate, consolidate and permanently cap impacted soil, is being conducted at no cost to the taxpayers of Massachusetts under an agreement between the Commonwealth and ConocoPhillips Company of Houston, Texas. ConocoPhillips is the successor in interest to The American Agricultural Chemical Company, which historically operated the fertilizer manufacturing facility.

"The closing of Webb State Park during an off-peak season will allow this work to be done safely and quickly, while taking into consideration the health and safety of the patrons who visit the park," said DCR Commissioner Katherine Abbott. "Because this work will be conducted in close proximity to existing walking trails and parking areas, we believe the safety of the public is better served by closing the park for this brief period."

As a precaution during construction, ConocoPhillips will employ a dust mitigation program and install a real-time air-monitoring network around Webb State Park and adjacent properties as an added level of protection for construction personnel and the surrounding public. Construction will stop immediately if the monitoring process identifies any issues.

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As part of the remediation project, ConocoPhillips will also restore and enhance existing wetlands, build new overlooks with benches, make improvements to walking trails, and resurface the parking area. These improvements are being done at no cost to the taxpayers of Massachusetts.

"When completed, this project will provide a permanent remedy to a long standing contamination issue at Webb State Park," added Commissioner Abbott. "This project is a positive example of a corporation acknowledging its responsibility and taking proactive, timely, action. We look forward to continuing our positive working relationship with ConocoPhillips."

In October 2003, ConocoPhillips and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reached agreement for the clean up at Webb State Park. The agreement also called for ConocoPhillips to reimburse the Commonwealth \$576,000 for costs incurred by DCR to test and perform preliminary clean up of the area.

ConocoPhillips is also working with other property owners on Weymouth Neck to conduct remediation of their land as required under Massachusetts General Law c. 21E and its regulations. The company recently completed the successful cleanup of soil at the Weymouthport Condominiums on Weymouth Neck.

Webb State Park is a 36-acre waterfront park on Weymouth Neck that was acquired by DEM in 1977. A portion of the park was also formerly used by the U.S. military as a Nike Missile site.